



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
03/629,974	04/09/96	NUSSBAUMER	H 2821-162

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EXAMINER

P.TANALTO, B

ART UNIT

1762

PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 05/13/99

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.	629974	Applicant(s)	NUSSBAUMER
Examiner	Panalter	Group Art Unit	1762 -

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Response

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE IS SET TO EXPIRE Three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a response be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for response specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a response within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for response is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication .
- Failure to respond within the set or extended period for response will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4-28-99.
- This action is FINAL.
- Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) 5-10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.
- The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
- received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
- received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- Notice of References Cited, PTO-892 Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 Other _____

Office Action Summary

Art Unit: 1762

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeda et al. in view of Sendzimir taken with Takahashi et al.

The primary reference discloses in column 1, lines 20-65 and column 4, lines 25-40 a method of coating weld joints in a metal container body by application of a spray coating to the weld area and recovering coating material to prevent scattering of the coating material. The primary reference does not disclose a rotating spray head device. Sendzimir, column 4, lines 30-43 a rotating spray head and Takahashi et al. discloses reducing the gap between containers. It is the examiner's opinion that it would have been obvious having ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to substitute the rotating nozzle of the secondary reference ~~to~~ for the nozzle of the primary reference and to reduce the gap between container since the secondary references teach this to be known in the art for producing uniform coatings and reduce waste. Also the limitations of the dependent claims are conventional and do not render these claims unobvious.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to B. Pianalto at telephone number (703) 308-2332.

B. Pianalto:cb
Primary Examiner

October 28, 1998


BERNARD PIANALTO
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1100